

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of caching data from multiple channels simultaneously,
5 the method comprising:
 accessing data specifying a set of channels;
 accessing data specifying a prioritization of the set of channels;
 selecting channels for which to cache data from the set of channels based
on the prioritization; and
10 caching data for the selected channels simultaneously.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the set of channels are favorite
channels.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 performing a video operation to allow viewing the cached data.
4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 receiving a switch operation from a first channel for which data is being
20 cached to a second channel for which data is not being cached; and
 in response to receiving the switch operation, de-allocating the data for the
first channel.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the first channel is a non-favorite channel.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
5 receiving a switch operation from a first channel to a second channel,
wherein data is being cached for both the first and second channels; and
in response to receiving the switch operation, maintaining the data that
is being cached for the first channel.

10 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the first channel is a favorite
channel.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein in response to caching
capabilities from a first channel becoming available:
15 selecting the channels further comprises selecting a second channel
with the highest priority of the channels that are not being cached; and
caching the data further comprises using the caching capabilities from
the first channel to cache the data for the second channel.

20 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a request to cache data for a first channel for which data is not
being cached;
selecting a second channel with the lowest priority to remove caching
capabilities from; and

reassigning the caching capabilities to the first channel to satisfy the request to cache data for the first channel.

- 5 10. An electronic device comprising:
- a memory unit; and
- a processor coupled to the memory unit, the processor for executing a method for caching data from multiple channels simultaneously, the method comprising:
- accessing data specifying a set of channels;
- 10 accessing data specifying a prioritization of the set of channels;
- selecting channels for which to cache data from the set of channels based on the prioritization;
- selecting channels for which to cache data from channels selected for viewing; and
- 15 caching data for the selected channels simultaneously.

11. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:
- receiving a switch operation from a first channel for which data is being
- 20 cached to a second channel for which data is not being cached; and
- in response to receiving the switch operation, de-allocating the data for the first channel.

12. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein the method further
- 25 comprises:

receiving a switch operation from a first channel to a second channel,
wherein data is being cached for both the first and second channels; and
in response to receiving the switch operation, maintaining the data that
is being cached for the first channel.

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13. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein in response to
caching capabilities from a first channel becoming available:

selecting the channels further comprises selecting a second channel
with the highest priority of the channels that are not being cached; and

10 caching the data further comprises using the caching capabilities from
the first channel to cache the data for the second channel.

14. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein the method further
comprises:

15 receiving a request to cache data for a first channel for which data is not
being cached;

selecting a second channel with the lowest priority to remove caching
capabilities from; and

20 reassigning the caching capabilities to the first channel to satisfy the
request to cache data for the first channel.

15. The electronic device of Claim 10, wherein the electronic device
is a set-top box device and wherein the set of channels are favorite channels.

25 16. An electronic device comprising:

a plurality of tuners;
a memory storage device coupled to said plurality of tuners;
a memory-stored list of channels having a channel ordering; and
a processor for selecting a first set of channels in response to viewing
5 requests and for assigning a first set of tuners thereto,
wherein said processor is also for selecting a second set of channels
based on said list of channels and for assigning a second set of tuners
thereto,
wherein said memory storage device simultaneously caches outputs of
10 said first and second set of tuners.

17. An electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said list
of channels is a favorite channels list and wherein said channel ordering is a
priority ordering of said favorite channels list.

15 18. An electronic device as described in Claim 17 further comprising
a remote data entry device and wherein said favorite channels list and said
channel ordering are obtained from said remote data entry device.

20 19. An electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said
plurality of tuners is also for providing picture-in-picture capabilities for output
to a display device and wherein further said first set of channels comprise:
a first channel selected for viewing on a main screen of said display
device; and

a second channel selected for viewing as a picture-in-picture window
on said display device.

20. An electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said
5 processor is also for altering said first and second set of channels in response
to a channel change request regarding a channel to be viewed.

21. An electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said
processor alters said second set of channels in response to a change in said
10 channel ordering.

22. An electronic device as described in Claim 21 wherein said list
of channels is a favorite channels list and wherein said channel ordering is a
priority ordering of said favorite channels list.

15 23. An electronic device as described in Claim 22 wherein said
plurality of tuners is also for providing picture-in-picture capabilities for output
to a display device.

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